

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 8 - THE BRIDAL GARMENTS

In part 7 we looked at what it meant to become a pure virgin. One that has never been with the world before. One that has been set free from friendship with the world, because they know the purpose to which the Scriptures speak - a Marriage Covenant between Christ and His church.

In part 8 we are going to look at the 2 wedding garments which the bride will be wearing before her marriage to the Son, and it is important to note, that the second garment is distinctly different to the first garment, and it is not something we automatically receive because we say we are Christians.

The **first garment** is the garment of **righteousness**.

Isaiah 61:10 I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

This is the garment that many in the body of Christ are familiar with, the garment of righteousness. Through the receiving of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, His blood cleanses us from the nature and power of sin, empowering us through grace to start living out a brand new life in Christ by faith.

This robe of righteousness is a covering and as Isaiah says, the Father wraps us with this robe, so when He looks at us He sees His beloved Son, the perfect sacrifice, covering us with His love. This righteousness reality must be received through the revelation of the Spirit, if we are to live out lives of freedom, no longer bound by our past, knowing that Jesus has released us from the condemnation, guilt and shame of any past, present and future sin.

This is the first garment followers of Jesus must have on if they are to become the bride of Christ, knowing that there are two garments.

The second garment is nowhere near as known in the body of Christ as the first garment of righteousness, and if it is known, it only tends to be known through an intellectual understanding as opposed to a revealed one.

The **second garment** is the garment of **righteous acts**.

Revelation 19:7-8 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

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There are three key questions we must ask ourselves in relation to this second garment.

The first is "What does it mean to be ready?"

The second is, "What are these righteous acts of the saints which represent the fine linen garment?"

The third is, "What do these righteous acts/the fine linen garment have to do with being ready?"

We will tackle the first question in part 8 and then the other 2 questions in part 9.

Q. What does it mean to be ready?

In the natural a bride starts preparing and getting ready for her marriage to her groom well in advance of the day. She makes all the necessary plans and goes about organising all the different elements that need to take place, being intentional and extremely specific about every detail. The costs are all worked out and committed to, with everyone receiving their invites to be present on the day.

The bride and the groom want their day to be perfect, and to run smoothly without any hiccups.

This is a physical typology, a foreshadowing, of what getting ready in the spirit is all about. The process for getting ready in the spirit, is for God's people to enter into the process of sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 *But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3 *For this is the will of God, your sanctification...*

In other words, it is essential we are being transformed, by being followers of spirit and truth, being obedient to every command of the Father.

This process of the spirit will have us being found complete in Christ, becoming a mature bride, who is the reflection (the image of Christ) and the expression (the demonstration of Christ) as one reality.

The bride who is ready has lived her life in accordance to the Father's truth and has fulfilled the Will of the Father. She eagerly awaits His return in confidence, knowing that she will receive the crown of righteousness.

Being the bride of Christ is not an automatic thing, we must become her. Only those who are ready will

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actually be His bride.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

QUESTIONS

1. How has receiving this garment of righteousness changed your life?
2. How aware are you that there is more than one garment when it comes to being His bride?
3. Sanctification is the bridal process which has her made ready for her groom. Can we give testimony of the transformation we are experiencing through being in this process of the Spirit? If yes please share with the group.

Watch the accompanying You Tube videos here: https://youtu.be/l3BIZc10K_c